

MINUTES OF MEETING
State Board of Education
September 11-12, 2003

The September meeting of the State Board of Education was held in the State Board Room, Grimes State Office Building, Des Moines. The following Board members were present: Gene Vincent, Sally Frudden, Jim Billings, Charles Edwards, Sister Jude Fitzpatrick, Greg McClain, Mary Jean Montgomery, Don Roby, Kay Wagner and Megan Srinivas. Also present were Department Director Ted Stilwill and Department staff members Gail Sullivan, Lee Tack, Kathi Slaughter, Carol Greta, Jan Friedel, Judy Jeffrey, Eric Heitz, Dennis Dykstra, Jim Clark, Jacqueline Crawford, Susan Fischer, Jane Heinsen, Pam Pfitzenmaier, Jeannie Ramirez and Beverlee Adams. Also present were: Arlie Wallems, IACTE, Ryan Miller, *Des Moines Press Citizen*, Hunter Moorman, Institute for Educational Leadership, Gary Lawson, Chris Woods, Tracie Woods, Samantha Knapp, Minnie Mallard, Lisateen Harris, C. Lowery, Opie Burrell, Stanley Burrell, and Octavia Burrell, Iowa Juneteenth Awards, Dennis Bahr and Kim Rost, Iowa Principal Academy, Susa Luza, Carolyn Wanat, and Marc Haack, University of Iowa, Dianna Engelbrecht and Gregory Reed, University of Northern Iowa, Jane Walker, Don Hackemann, Thomas Alsbury, Iowa State University, Sally Hindes, Barbara Williams and Dave Darnell, Drake University, Pat Bunte, Iowa Association of School Boards and Dwayne Ferguson, Legislative Fiscal Bureau.

President Vincent called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m.

It was moved by Mary Jean Montgomery and seconded by Sister Jude Fitzpatrick to approve the agenda as written.

HONORS AND RECOGNITION

Greg McClain presented the Juneteenth celebration contest winners. He indicated the theme of this year's contest was Affirmative Action: Who Is It Helping? McClain introduced Gary Lawson, Connect Foundation. Lawson discussed the program and introduced the winners and their guests. The winners were as follows:

First Place – Octavia Burrell
Second Place – Christopher Woods
Third Place – Samantha Knapp

All of the winners were enrolled at North High School in Des Moines. All winners received awards plus scholarship assistance.

COMMUNICATION

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Board Reports

Don Roby reported on the Community College Council agenda and distributed a handout with the results of community college ballot issues. He also indicated that Dr. Robert Koob; President, University of Northern Iowa discussed the issue of building better collaboration among community colleges and the Regents.

Jim Billings indicated he had attended the first meeting of the Technology Advisory Committee held in Des Moines.

Mary Jean Montgomery stated she had been in attendance at the Iowa Public Television Board meeting. She also distributed an article from *The Chronicle of Higher Education* titled *Companies' Graduate Programs Challenge Colleges of Education*.

Kay Wagner – No Report

Greg McClain updated the Board on the NASBE Finance and Audit Committee discussions. He also handed out copies of the winning essay chosen for the Juneteenth Celebration Essay Contest. McClain reported that he had attended the I-JAG Board meeting held in Waterloo and they had visited Expo High School.

Sally Frudden expressed her appreciation of Dr. Koob attending the Community College Council meeting in Des Moines. She felt the discussion and sharing of ideas was a positive effort toward collaboration of community colleges and Regent's institutions.

Frudden reported that she had been appointed to the Iowa Learns Council, a special commission headed by the Governor. This Council was a result of the Iowa Values legislation passed by the last legislative session. The Council will be divided into three focus subgroups: 1) Focus on Early Childhood; 2) Focus on K-12 Students; and 3) Strengthening the Education-Economic Growth Connection. She indicated the Governor charged the Council with working toward achieving the goal of having 90 percent of Iowa children have a quality pre-school experience and of 90 percent of Iowa's high school graduates going on to complete at least two years of higher education.

Sister Jude Fitzpatrick – No report.

Charlie Edwards – No report.

Gene Vincent indicated he had attended an awards event at Iowa State University honoring the Teacher of the Year, Board Member of the Year and Administrator of the Year. He also reported that he was pleased to have Director Stilwill speak in Carroll at Educator's Day.

Director Report

Director Ted Stilwill reported on the following items:

- Carol Greta, legal consultant and Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education had appeared before the Rules Review Committee for a discussion of weather-related school closings and school calendars.
- Press Release regarding the Iowa Learns Council
- Survey on athletic eligibility rules had been sent out and results would be presented to the Board in November.

CONSENT AGENDA

Minutes

The minutes of the August 14-15, 2003 State Board meeting were approved.

Rules

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 97, Supplemental Weighting Regional Academies was approved for notice of intended action.

281, Iowa Administrative Code, Chapter 68, Charter Schools was approved for emergency filing.

Rules: Chapter 34, Funding for Children Residing in State Institutions or Mental Health Institutes

Lee Tack, Administrator, Division of Financial and Information Services, presented the rules for Chapter 34. Dennis Dykstra and Jim Clark, Consultants for the Department were also available for this presentation. Tack indicated the funding for educational services for students residing in these institutions had previously been provided under Iowa Code section 282.28. Senate File 453 had

repealed this section of the code and established a new procedure for the department to use in approving educational programs and budgets. The institutions affected by these rules were as follows: Mental Health Institutes at Cherokee and Independence, the Iowa Juvenile Home at Toledo, and the State Training School at Eldora.

Motion: It was moved by Don Roby and seconded by Sally Frudden that 281 (IAC), Chapter 34, Funding for Children Residing in State Institutions or Mental Health Institutes be approved for notice of intended action.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Rules: Amendment, Chapter 47 “Career Academies”

Janice Friedel, Administrator, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation stated that House File 683 created a new Code section 260C.18 entitled “Workforce Training and Economic Development Funds. This would allow funding to be used for the development and implementation of career academies designed to provide new career preparation opportunities for high school students that are linked to postsecondary programs. This program was associated with the Iowa Values Fund legislation.

Gene Vincent asked about the funding distribution. Don Roby talked about the marriage between economic development and education. Mary Jean Montgomery shared a concern for the data collection involved with this process.

Motion: Don Roby moved and Mary Jean Montgomery seconded that 281 (IAC), Chapter 47 as presented be approved for notice of intended action.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

Practitioner Preparation Approval – Cornell College

Director Stilwill introduced Jacqueline Crawford, Consultant, Bureau of Practitioner Preparation and Licensure, new consultant for the Department in practitioner preparation. Ms. Crawford indicated that a review of the teacher education programs offered by Cornell College was made in the Fall of 2002. This review was conducted under the new program approval rules. She reviewed the strengths and concerns as well as the improvements that had been made since the visit. Ms. Crawford stated that based on the team’s findings during the review and the institution’s efforts in response to the report of the visit, the institution was recommended for approval.

Motion: It was moved by Mary Jean Montgomery that the practitioner preparation programs at Cornell College be reapproved. The motion was seconded by Kay Wagner.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

State Board Policy Development Agenda and Master Calendar

Gail Sullivan, Chief of Staff, presented this agenda item. She reviewed the priorities for the State Board Policy Development Agenda that the Board had identified at their June retreat. Sullivan said many of the issues would continue the policy work that was started in 2002-2003. An outline was shared of the priorities and a proposal for addressing them. The priorities were as follows:

- Advocacy for Education Funding
- Leadership Development/Quality Administrators
- Strengthening Rural Education
- Technology
- Quality Teaching
- Improving Academic Achievement for All Students—Decreasing the Achievement Gap
- Early Childhood Advocacy
- High School Reinvention/Transition
- Community College Student Performance

Sally Frudden indicated she wanted to strengthen the early childhood language as well as encourage that the Board spend some time learning more about the topic of early childhood.

Charlie Edwards felt the Board should keep the conversation strong on strengthening rural education. Don Roby and Mary Jean Montgomery also supported this idea.

Jim Billings said the Board should discuss the issues with the people that are affected by the changes.

Greg McClain noted his concern on the word “decreasing” in the goal Improving Academic Achievement for All Students—Decreasing the Achievement Gap. He felt the Board should show initiative and suggested that new wording should be developed for replacement of this language.

The Board complimented the overall plan written by Sullivan.

Moved: It was moved by Kay Wagner and seconded by Mary Jean Montgomery that the proposed Policy Development Agenda be approved with the suggested revisions.

Vote: The motion carried unanimously.

No Child Left Behind Update

Administrator Judy Jeffrey, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education reviewed the criteria for submission of the next installment of Iowa's consolidated plan to ensure the implementation of the provisions of NCLB. She discussed the baseline data and performance targets for ESEA goals and ESEA indicators.

Administrator Preparation Program Approval

Director Stilwill introduced this agenda item and explained that this had been a long journey. Many milestones had been accomplished in this process. He said many meetings had been held with communities, colleges, and education organizations on what leadership is all about. Judy Jeffrey, Administrator, Division of Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education explained the rules in Chapter 79 separate program approval for administrator preparation from that for other practitioner preparation programs. All institutions seeking to offer administrator preparation programs must undergo review under these rules. Ms. Jeffrey introduced Hunter Moorman, Director of the Education Policy Fellowship Program at the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, D.C. to present the results of the review of the National Panel for Administrator Preparation Program Review. Moorman indicated a panel of four national experts in administrator preparation and professional development had worked with staff of the Department for 20 months to design the review process, to acquaint prospective applicants with the process, and to conduct two stages of review. The results of the first review were presented in November 2002.

Hunter Moorman reported the results of the second review which included seven proposed programs submitted by the May 15, 2003 deadline and of additional material submitted by the one program rated conditional in the previous round of review (the Iowa Principal Leadership Academy, sponsored by the Northwest Iowa AEA Cooperative in partnership with the School Administrators of Iowa). Applicants considered in the current stage were Buena Vista University, Drake University, Iowa State University, Loras College, the Iowa Principal Leadership Academy, St. Ambrose University, the University of Iowa, and the University of Northern Iowa. He indicated the Department of Education will continue to work with Buena Vista University, Loras College, and St. Ambrose University on issues raised during the review.

Mr. Moorman said the national panel recommended that two programs be fully approved and three programs be conditionally approved. The specific recommendations were as follows:

Recommended for Approval

- Iowa Principal Leadership Academy
- Iowa State University

Recommended for Conditional Approval

- Drake University
- University of Iowa
- University of Northern Iowa

The panel reviewed each application against a common set of criteria and developed an overall numerical rating for each, based on which applications fell into specific categories. Moorman stated that behind each recommended category was a set of clear qualitative distinctions. He reviewed the distinctions that separated the “approved” from the “conditionally” approved applicants to assist the Board in determining how the decisions were made.

A lengthy discussion followed Hunter Moorman’s review. Sally Frudden stated she did not agree with some of the criteria used in the approval process and the relativity to the administrator programs. Frudden indicated she thought all five programs should have full approval as the programs were works-in-progress and some type of compromise should be considered. Charles Edwards and Greg McClain indicated they had conflicts of interest with applicants being presented and would abstain from voting. Ms. Montgomery had concerns about the technical assistance and leadership addressed in these conversations.

Don Roby expressed concern and asked for clarification on the definition of adjunct or full-time faculty leadership positions. Sister Jude Fitzpatrick cautioned that in this review process the Board should be careful to not create a situation that could not be managed.

Kay Wagner said she did not look on “conditional approval” as a bad thing but rather as a work in progress. An example of that was Iowa Principal Leadership Academy coming to the Board for full approval in the second review after working through the issues making them conditional the first time around.

Mary Jean Montgomery also stated she would abstain from voting per her association with the Iowa Principal Leadership Academy.

Motion: It was moved by Jim Billings and seconded by Don Roby that the program recommendations made by the National Review Panel be approved as presented.

Roll Call Vote: Aye: Billings, Roby, Wagner, Vincent and Fitzpatrick.
Nays: Frudden. Abstain: Edwards, McClain, Montgomery.
The motion passed.

Update: Strategic Plan Revision – 2003

Chief of Staff, Gail Sullivan reviewed the strategic plan. She indicated the Board had discussed guiding principles, a mission statement, and goals, at their June State Board Retreat. The Board had asked the Department to recommend strategies for achieving goals and measures. Sullivan outlined the revisions of the strategic plan components with measures and proposed strategies. She indicated a lot of discussion had centered around the goals and the Board had given staff some leeway to work with language. The revised goals are listed below:

1. All children will enter school ready to learn.
2. All K-12 students will achieve at high levels, prepared for success beyond high school.
3. Iowans will pursue higher education that results in an improved quality of life supported by better economic opportunities.
4. All vocational rehabilitation clients will achieve employment in the integrated labor market.

She noted that the biggest change in the goals was the fifth goal had been turned into a strategy. She explained the rationale for taking that action.

The following five global strategies for achieving the goals were discussed:

- Quality Instruction/Professional Development
- Resources
- Collaboration/Community Partnerships
- Assurance/Accountability
- System Leadership

Staff within the agency will have specific programs and initiatives to support each of these proposed strategies. Director Stilwill shared information on an internal process the Department is undertaking called the Iowa Excellence Process. The first part requires getting input from staff on how well the direction of the Department is aligned with the mission and goals of the strategic plan.

Charlie Edwards said he felt there was some challenge in the amount of inputs that were in the process (i.e. federal, department, board). It would be a useful tool if it helps the department, and board strengthen collaboration and coordination with the federal guidelines.

Ms. Sullivan indicated the conversation had been helpful in moving toward a completed document for the strategic plan.

The State Board held a work session in preparation for the joint meeting with the Board of Educational Examiners to be held on Friday morning, September 12.

Friday, September 12

Joint Meeting with the Board of Educational Examiners

The Iowa State Board of Education and the Board of Educational Examiners met to discuss the complementary responsibilities related to the preparation and development of educators in Iowa. The discussion provided an opportunity to look at testing of teacher candidates in content and pedagogy, the Praxis pilot study, and the recommendations of the Iowa Leadership Partnership.

Update: Iowa Learning Online

Ted Stilwill, Director, introduced Pam Pfitzenmaier, Director, Educational Telecommunications, Iowa Public Television to provide an update on plans to expand online learning opportunities in Iowa. He addressed this issue indicating the Board had listed supporting virtual academies as one of the legislative priorities for 2003, however, it had not been funded. Pfitzenmaier explained the name change from Virtual Academy to Iowa Learning Online. She also reviewed the survey sent to school administrators last year asking for the types of courses they need to have offered for high school students that are not currently available. North Central Regional Laboratory assigned an individual with expertise in online teaching and offered a course to 22 educators on how to teach online. This individual was assigned to us at no cost. The course primarily addressed communication skills while teaching over the ICN. A second course will be offered for teachers creating their own course(s) to teach. She felt this part of online teaching offered an opportunity to reach many other teachers as they offer courses to instruct other colleagues. This evidence shows examples of not just courses for students but teachers as well and encourages staff development for educators.

Pfitzenmaier felt there are a lot of really good courses available and there were many conversations in regard to swapping courses with other states. She indicated that districts may use video classes much more reasonably than using an online website. A lot of possibilities are available through community colleges and school districts. Greg McClain asked why Iowa could not offer the Florida courses.

Director Stilwill stated it would be a valuable concept to bring those courses to one place and find the resources to utilize the programs and to provide quality control.

Ms. Pfitzenmaier handed out a list of work accomplished and work yet to be completed for Iowa Learning Online. These are as follows:

1. Establish advisory committees
2. Establish Web site/url
3. Identify classes that school administrators consider to be high priority needs
4. Prepare more teachers with skills for teaching “at a distance”
5. Establish operational structure for Iowa Learning Online
6. Select “platform” and tech support for online classes
7. Review existing Web-based classes from other states for possible use
8. Design/develop three Web-enhanced high school science classes
9. “Broker” schools needing courses with those schools/colleges providing courses
10. Actively recruit schools/colleges to offer needed courses that are not currently available
11. Publicize the availability of Iowa Learning Online services to schools

Iowa’s Adult Literacy Program Benchmark Projection Report for Program Year 2004

John Hartwig, Educational Program Consultant, Division of Community Colleges and Workforce Preparation presented this agenda item. One of the major intents of the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) is to establish performance measures and benchmarks to demonstrate increased accountability. When AEFLA was reauthorized in 1998, Congress made accountability for results a central focus of the new law, setting out performance accountability requirements for states and local program that measure program effectiveness on the basis of student academic achievement and competency based outcomes.

Hartwig outlined the goals of the Act:

- Assist adults to become literate and obtain the knowledge and skills necessary for employment and self-sufficiency (Workplace Literacy);
- Assist adults who are parents obtain the educational skills necessary to become full partners in the educational development of their children (Family Literacy);
- Assist adults in the completion of a secondary school education.

He also discussed several observations for the establishment of benchmark projections for Program Year 2004.

Ted Stilwill handed out the proposed agenda topics for the November meeting.

President Vincent declared the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Gene Vincent
President

Ted Stilwill, Director and
Executive Officer